

## **Historic, Archive Document**

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# 1943--OTWELL IRIS FIELDS--1943

CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS



This flower-surrounded home has been visited yearly by many thousands of flower lovers. It was built by the late Will B. Otwell, who founded the Otwell Iris Fields and who for many years was a successful nurseryman and horticulturist. The home is still occupied by his wife, Winifred B. Otwell, who is continuing with the work.

The iris growing began as a simple experiment to beautify some vacant town lots. The result was so gratifying that the plants were transferred to their present place, where the work of developing and perfecting them has continued through twenty years, until today Otwell iris are grown in gardens in every state in the Union.

Whether "people make the place" or "the place makes people" is debatable. Life weaves its pattern so intricately about both, that we seem a part of our abode, and cannot be content elsewhere. This flowered spot, for me, is home—away from it spells homesickness.

It is encouraging to know that the love of the beautiful still lives in the hearts of people in a war torn and intensely practical age. I would share these acres of beauty with you—they would not be half so beautiful to me without your presence and enthusiasm—so I am hoping to greet you personally when you come in May. But if a visit is not possible for all this year, I shall look forward to meeting you through the pages of this little folder, to share with you the loveliness of our realm of beauty which is the rich product of the soil and soul.

Winifred B. Otwell

# WILL B. OTWELL



To you, our many valued friends who do not know that my husband, Will B. Otwell, has passed away, I bring this message.

His earthly work of cultivating flowers and trees is over, but in that beautiful country of the soul where he has gone, there are spiritual flowers of great beauty and I am sure he is tending there, blossoms even lovelier than the ones he tended here. These earthly flowers will bloom again and welcome Spring but he who planted them will not be here to greet you this year.

Because he cared for you too and realized great happiness in his countless friends, often expressing himself as owing you, both his seen and unseen friends, an enormous debt of gratitude for your priceless friendship through

the years, I would tell you more about him.

His life was like a prayer and that prayer was to be good and to do good. No one knew better than he the fine art of unselfishness. He was honorable, sensible, unassuming and undemanding—the product of fine living. He builded his character of the finest materials, knowing that nothing grows unless it is touched by the Infinite. He met life with a zest unbounded and it was his constant desire to do something worthwhile for those about him. In the growing of flowers as in many other things he willed that those flowers should bring happiness to others.

And in that last hour he was unafraid because he had lived his faith in God and now he has gone to tend flowers in the sweet fields of Eden. For his sake and for the sake of the work he loved so well, I shall continue this work of love and beauty he endeavored to bring into your lives.

**Winifred B. Otwell**



## OUR FAVORITE RED IRIS COLLECTION

It is doubtful if anyone grows more red iris than we do. We are constantly preparing for this popular collection, trying to improve it in every way. Needless to say it is the most popular of all the collections we offer. We have shipped many hundreds of them every year, all over the United States and it has been very enthusiastically received everywhere.

This picture above, taken in mid-May, will perhaps give you a faint idea of the beauty and extent of our red iris plantings. When you come to see them I feel sure that you will not want to hurry away. And if you cannot come, they can be sent to you. They should not all stay here, but should be planted in the gardens of flower-lovers everywhere.

Accordingly I have tried to make up the best Red Collection that we have ever sent out. It will contain four red iris in four varieties and as a patriotic touch, two lovely fragrant white iris and two rich blue iris—twenty in all, labeled and postpaid to your door with special planting instructions for \$3.00.

I am certain that you will love this beautiful and unusual collection.

Mrs. W. B. Otwell

## POPULAR IRIS VARIETIES

**Alice Harding**—A soft primrose yellow with a buff blend near the base of the falls. Large and flowering. 25 cents.

**All-u-we**—A new type variegata. Standards are yellow suffused with peach—falls long and ruddy shading into gold. 25 cents.

**Amanacer**—A fine blend of pastel shades. 25 cents.

**Anndelia**—A lovely new plicata. Falls are white with feather stitch edging of bright rose purple. Standards lilac and beautifully ruffled. 25 cents.

**Apache**—Large rusty red flower—resembles a brown orchid. Much admired. 25 cents.

**Aphrodite**—One of the loveliest pink irises in our entire list. 36 in. Fine in every way. 25 cents.

**Blue Banner**—A gorgeous blue bicolor. Standards bright lavender blue, beautifully frilled, falls deep rich pansy with a border of bright lavender matching the standards. 25 cents.

**Blue Triumph**—42 inches. A fine soft blue with flaring falls. 25 cents.

**Blue Velvet**—An intense rich deep blue iris, self. Velvety. 25 cents.

**California Gold**—Tallest, best, finest golden iris. 50 cents.

**Caprice**—Five hundred women voted Caprice the second best iris on the list. Large, beautiful, fragrant magenta red. 25 cents.

**Cardinal**—Rich red purple. 25 cents.

**Chromylla**—A large beautiful flower of good form and texture in yellow chrome. 25 cents.

**Cinnabar**—Deep, velvety bi-color in rich purple. Very attractive. 25 cents.

**Clara Noyes**—A beautiful Talisman rose color. 25 cents.

**Columbine**—Nothing finer in a white iris—same quality as Aphrodite, one of its parents. 25 cents.

**Coralie**—A blend of bright raspberry pink with golden beard. 35 cents.

**Coronation**—One of the finest grown. Three feet. Large, yellow, fragrant. Pleases everybody. 25 cents.

**Crimson King**—Dark purplish red, almost black. 25 cents.

**Crystal Beauty**—Tall, large pure white. 35 cents.

**Cydalise**—A really lovely yellow plicata etched around the falls with chocolate brown. 25 cents.

**Dauntless**—Sold for \$35 for a single plant only a few years ago. A wonderful bloomer and a favorite with all our visitors. 25 cents.

**Depute Nomblot**—A giant in claret crimson with a slight overlay of bronze. Extraordinarily beautiful. 35 cents.

**Dogrose**—Fine large beautiful flower—pink—one of the best. 35 cents.

**Dream**—Tall, strong, stands up in rain or storm—delicate pink. Very very beautiful. You will fall in love with Dream. 25 cents.

**Eclador**—A crystalline yellow iris by Cayeaux. No yellow iris surpasses this one in exquisiteness of sheen. 25 cents.

**Eclat**—Ripe apricot shade. 25 cents.

**Eros**—A beautiful salmon pink self. Fragrant. Absolutely different. 50 cents.

**Etnelwyn Durbar**—Largest and finest pink toned iris ever produced. 35 cents.

**Euphony**—One of the best copper blends, old gold with soft violet. A beauty. 25 cents.

**Fascination**—A bright pink-toned variety. A large flower and one of the most popular pinks. 25 cents.

**Flamingo**—A gorgeous bronze red that overshadows all its neighbors. Can be seen a great distance. Long blooming season. 25 cents.

**Folkwang**—A truly different iris. Lilac tinged standards and brilliant pink falls. Shows a long way. Late. 25 cents.

**Freida Mohr**—This magnificent iris has probably won more first prizes than any other iris. Tall, fragrant, beautiful pink. 25 cents.

**Frivolite**—An attractive pink iris of largest merit. 35 cents.

**Fro**—Deep rich gold standards. Velvety bronze crimson falls, sweet scented. 25 cents.

**George J. Tribolet**—Dark red purple—almost black. Velvety. 25 cents.

**Gilead**—Tall buff amber blend. Broad heavy flowers of heavy substance. 25 cents.

**Golden Bow**—Long, large flowers of chrome yellow. Early. 25 cents.

**Golden Flare**—An unusually attractive blending of Talisman rose colors with a faint electric blue flush on the falls. 25 cents.

**Golden Glow**—A rich yellow self. 25 cents.

**Gold Imperial**—A tall fine golden self. 25 cents.

**Grace Sturtevant**—Rich red brown and carmine iris. 35 cents.

**Gudrun**—Very large white iris. Early. 50 cents.

**Hernani**—A rich garnet red. 25 cents.

**Happy Days**—Deep yellow, early. Unusually fine. 50 cents.

**Imperator**—A light wine-red self. 25 cents.

**Imperial Blush**—A fragrant—soft pink iris. 25 cents.

**Indian Chief**—An outstanding brilliant red iris. Early and tall. 25 cents.

**Isis King**—Yellow with rich maroon falls. 25 cents.

**Jean Cayeux**—Unlike any other iris color. Coffee au lait shade. Soft brown self. 50 cents.

**King Tut**—A popular brilliant red toned iris. Very rich. 25 cents.

## POPULAR IRIS VARIETIES

**Legend**—A magnificent gold-bearded reddish purple iris. Huge flowers. 25 cents.

**Lord of June**—A very large lavender blue self with yellow throat. 25 cents.

**Madame Gaudichau**—One of the finest growers and heaviest bloomers in the entire list. Purple self, large and beautiful. Rich in color and texture. 25 cents.

**Madame Pompadour**—Old rose. 25 cents.

**Magenta**—Bright magenta iris. Fragrant. 25 cents.

**Magnifica**—Pink toned. Handsome in every way. Good grower and bloomer. 25 cents.

**Marie Poole**—A fine all white iris. 25 cents.

**Mester**—Large velvety blue self. 25 cents.

**Midgard**—Pastel pink and yellow blend. Medium height. 25 cents.

**Morning Splendor**—One man said "If I could have only one iris it would be Morning Splendor." Large, tall, fragrant, raisin-red. 25 cents.

**Mrs. Marian Cran**—A very tall, lovely, ruffled pink. 25 cents.

**Neptune**—A beautiful blue with lavender sheen. Falls a deeper blue. 25 cents.

**Otwell's Sky Blue**—We sell more Sky Blue than any other single variety. Beautiful heavenly blue. Tall, strong and very fragrant. Stands up in the wind and rain. Fine for border. 25 cents.

**Pacific**—Large clear blue—early—magnificent. 25 cents.

**Pioneer**—A very large, brilliant red purple. Nothing more showy or prolific on the entire list. You will love this magnificent iris. 25 cents.

**Pluie d'or**—A very fine tall clear deep yellow. 25 cents.

**Pongee**—A uniform buff colored flower. Has the color and texture of pongee silk. 25 cents.

**Rameses**—Winner of the Dykes Memorial Medal. A beautiful flower in every way. Pink blend. 25 cents.

**Rajput**—A bright violet self. A real beauty. 25 cents.

**Red Dominion**—Fine, large all red iris. 25 cents.

**Red Radiance**—A perfectly beautiful rich red, both deep and brilliant. Very scarce. 50 cents.

**Rhea**—Standards of lobelia violet and falls of pansy violet. Unusual. 25 cents.

**Rheingauperlé**—An exquisite flower of fine form. Soft pink tone. One of the very loveliest. 25 cents.

**Rhein Nixé**—White with purple blue falls. 25 cents.

**Rheintochter**—Blue self. Falls edged white. 25 cents.

**Rob Roy**—Rich red iris equal to Dauntless. You will love this iris. 25 cents.

**Rose Dominion**—Beautiful, brilliant rose color. Quite unlike most others. 25 cents.

**Rose Madder**—Bright rose madder. Tall and fragrant. 25 cents.

**Rose Petal**—A deep rose petal pink iris. Sweet scented. 25 cents.

**Rubco**—A tall rich beautiful red, of largest size. Nothing finer in the fields. 50 cents.

**Ruby Perry**—Blue orchid shade. Fine tall and fragrant. Exquisitely beautiful. Longest season. Blooms early and stays late. 40 inches. We grow nothing finer. 25 cents.

**Selene**—(Moon Goddess). 40 inches. A very large silvery white iris, frilled petals. 25 cents.

**Seminole**—Rich velvety crimson. None finer. 25 cents.

**Sha Jehan**—Standards soft creamy buff. Falls are a deep rich ruby red with eighth of an inch bordered in white. A most unusual and new flower. 35 cents.

**Shekinah**—A fine yellow self. Tall and ruffled. 25 cents.

**Shivassee**—Very large tall glowing red. 25 cents.

**Sierra Blue**—50 inches. A large clear blue self. 35 cents.

**Solferino**—56 inches—a large pink iris on the order of Aphrodite. 25 cents.

**Sonata**—A beautiful flower shading from buff to sulphine yellow. Falls are lilac shading to yellow. 25 cents.

**Steepway**—Iridescent. Old rose effect. Very beautiful and orchid like. 25 cents.

**Sundipt**—40 inches. A wonderfully tall straight glowing yellow. 50 cents.

**Trails End**—Bittersweet red with slightly darker falls. Unique and attractive. 25 cents.

**True Charm**—A charming plicata margined with blue. 25 cents.

**True Delight**—A beautiful white with bright pink edges. Fine form and an outstanding variety. 25 cents.

**Tusciorora**—A brilliant red toned flower that is highly attractive. 25 cents.

**Tuscany Gold**—A large well formed bronzed old gold. 25 cents.

**Varese**—A large brilliant red flower. Very distinctive and attractive. 50 cents.

**Venus di Milo**—Cream white. Beautiful substance. Midseason. 25 cents.

**Vert Gallant**—50 inches. A beautiful coppery red. Free bloomer. Singly or in mass it is unsurpassed. 50 cents.

**Virginia Moore**—A rich gold self. Fine for borders. 25 cents.

**White Queen**—Pure white and fine. 25 cents.

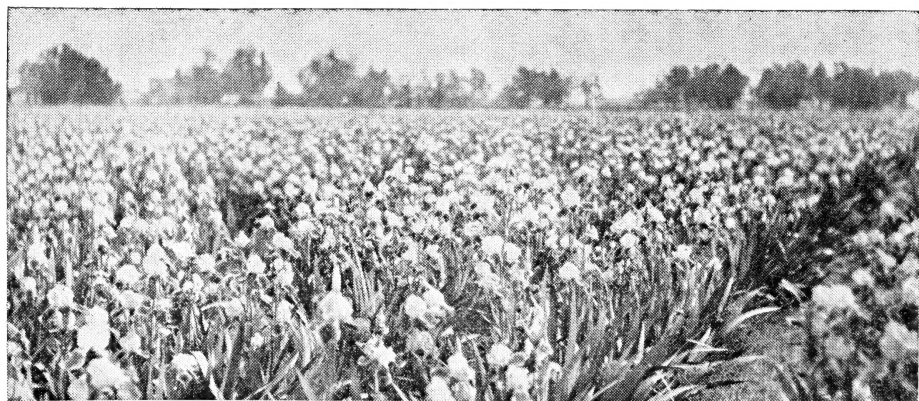
**Zamora**—Attractive pansy blue self. 25 cents.

**Zilia**—A fine tall pansy blue self. 25 cents.

**Zuni**—Huge flower. Rich glowing red brown suffused with copper. 25 cents.

## A LIST THAT IS SURE TO PLEASE YOU

- All-u-we**—A metallic bronze iris with red-toned falls. 25 cents.
- Black Douglas**—A rich black purple self. 50 cents.
- California Gold**—Huge golden self. Tall. Fragrant. 50 cents.
- Copper Luster**—Iridescent copper color. Very large and fine. \$1.00.
- Coralie**—Raspberry Pink. 35 cents.
- Ella Winchester**—A magnificent mahogany red iris. \$1.00.
- Ethelwyn Durbar**—A large pink-toned iris. Finer than Imperial Blush. 25 cents.
- Frivolite**—A shrimp-pink iris. Flushed with yellow at the throat. 35 cents.
- Grace Sturtevant**—A rich red brown iris. 35 cents.
- Hernani**—A very dark red self. 25 cents.
- Lady Paramount**—A large clear primrose yellow self. 50 cents.
- Marco Polo**—Rich glowing red. 35 cents.
- Mary Geddes**—Pomeranian red blend. 25 cents.
- Pink Satin**—A true pink self. Tall and fine. 25 cents.
- Red Dominion**—A velvety rich red. 42 inches. 25 cents.
- Red Radiance**—Rich glowing red. Very scarce. 50 cents.
- Ronda**—A fine red toned iris. Similar to Rubeo. 25 cents.
- Rubeo**—A massive velvety red iris. 50 cents.
- Sacramento**—A giant plicata. Feather stitched reddish purple. 25 cents.
- Selene**—A large pure white iris. 25 cents.
- Sha Jehan**—Rich plum colored iris. Falls bordered with white. 35 cents.
- Sir Launcelot**—Standards soft fawn, falls a brownish claret. 35 cents.
- Suntan**—Yellow with a russet overlay. 25 cents.
- War Eagle**—Pink standards, brilliant carmine falls. 35 cents.
- Zuni**—Rich glowing red brown iris suffused with copper. 25 cents.





# COLLECTIONS

## 1. GET ACQUAINTED COLLECTION—

This collection consists of 30 plants in all which will give you a fine start for an iris garden, especially if you are a beginner. There are five plants of six leading varieties, all labeled and post paid for \$4.00.

## 2. PINK AND BLUE COLLECTION—

There are thirty plants in this collection, fifteen beautiful pink iris and fifteen fragrant blue iris. Labeled and post paid for \$3.00.

## 3. NUMBER 10 COLLECTION—

This collection is made up of 100 of the finest iris that we grow, consisting of ten each of ten leading varieties, giving you a fine color assortment. All are carefully labeled and packaged and sent you post paid for \$8.00.

See description of our Red Iris Collection on Page 3 of this folder.

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## WHAT OUR FRIENDS SAY

"I know that you will remember me. I come every year. Please send me this list, which I picked out last May when I saw them."—Michigan.

"I have been sending to you for iris for fifteen years. I cannot resist a few more. I know of no flower that grows more easily and of nothing that I possess that has given me more moments of real joy than my bed of Otwell's Sky Blue."—Minnesota.

"The red iris were magnificent. People come from all over town to see them."—Wyoming.

"I have been buying iris from you for years and am always satisfied."—Wisconsin.

"I order your Red Collection from you each year and prize them beyond measure."—Kentucky.

"I can truthfully say I never received such beautiful big roots. I want some more just as soon as I can clear a space for them."—Louisiana.

"We landscaped our new home with Otwell iris. The result is very gratifying."—Oklahoma.

"Thank you very much for the promptness in filling my order and for the generous supply of extras."—Illinois.

"Thank you for those nice large rhizomes. Those are the kind you send me every time."—Texas.

"We have gone to a new address but want your iris to follow us."—Missouri.

"We have found your iris so satisfactory and so beautiful, I wish that I could buy every variety that you grow."—Missouri.

"This is the first time I ever ordered iris and these that you sent me are truly magnificent."—California.

"Your flowers are a part of my life, especially now that my boys are gone to the army."—Arkansas.

"I ordered from you several years ago. I am still ordering from you. Be sure to keep me on your mailing list."—Louisiana.

"I am a busy farm woman but I am not going to do without your iris now that I have tried them."—West Virginia.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

In this modest folder there is not one variety of iris listed that we have not grown and tested for its health, beauty and adaptability before offering it to you.

We grow no flowers but iris and grow them by the thousands. We specialize particularly in red and pink iris.

We ship out only the finest, best developed stock, which is sure to please you.

Send your orders any time you wish and we will ship at the best time for planting. July to November are good planting months. We make no shipments until after the blooming season.

Please send cash with your order, either a post office money order or your personal check is acceptable. If it is the shipping season, I will not acknowledge your order by letter but instead will rush your shipment to you at the first opportunity. If there should be a few days' delay, don't write. It may have rained here and thus hindered the digging operations slightly. Every effort will be made to serve you promptly. If your order is made out of the shipping season, I shall acknowledge the receipt of your letter and remittance and ship your order to you at the right planting time.

For real iris beauty, plant fewer kinds and plant more of each kind if you wish to make the best showing. We can, upon inquiry, make you some very attractive offers on iris in large lots of 100 to 500 or more for flower beds, borders for walks or driveways, erosion plantings or landscaping of any kind. Clubs and Societies often buy in large quantities and divide amongst their membership, thereby getting the benefit of special price offers.

We do not sell new and untried kinds of iris. There is no better way to part with your money in a hurry and in most cases experience disappointment. Novelties are often worth only fifty cents instead of fifty dollars after a year or two. By that time you will be able to judge as to whether they are novelties or prime new favorites.

Please look over our list of collections, and see if some of them do not meet your requirements. All our collections this year are being shipped parcel post prepaid in order to make it easier on your gas ration. All other orders from this catalog will be shipped to you parcel post prepaid at the prices quoted for each iris herein, unless your order exceeds fifty plants. In that case you will assume the postage or expressage. Prices quoted in our other catalogs are not effective. No order for less than one dollar will be accepted if packing and shipping are necessary. No C. O. D. shipments will be made—please—as they cost you more and waste our time.

When you get to Carlinville stay on the pavement until you get to the Community High School, west of town. Turn north there and follow the iris signs. There are no charges of any kind at the Otwell Iris Fields and plenty of room to park your cars.

Trusting that many of our friends may renew their friendships at our Flower Fields in May, I am, sincerely,

MRS. W. B. OTWELL,  
Carlinville, Illinois.